

Message Text

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16
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-02 DPW-01 IO-13 CIAE-00

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R 010629Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6641
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
JCRC BARBERS PT HA
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 32626

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, VN, CB
SUBJECT: WEST GERMAN ENVOY IN HANOI COMMENTS ON MIA ISSUE AND
OTHER QUESTIONS

SUMMARY: WEST GERMAN AMBASSADOR TO SRV BELIEVES VIET-NAM
WILL PROVIDE VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT MONDALE WITH MUCH
FULLER INFORMATION ON MIA'S IN EFFORT TO GET ON GOOD
FOOTING WITH THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, SHOULD THE VICE
PRESIDENT VISIT HANOI. HE ALSO COMMENTS ON THE FORTHCOMING
PARTY CONGRESS AND MAKES OTHER OBSERVATIONS ON VIET-NAM
AND NEIGHBORING CAMBODIA. END SUMMARY.

1. FRG AMBASSADOR TO SRV, DR. SCHOLZ, TOLD EMBOFF NOVEMBER
29 THAT THE WORD IN HANOI IS THAT VICE PRESIDEN-ELECT
MAONDALE WILL VISIT THAT CITY IN EARLY FEBRUARY TO DISCUSS
MIA ISSUE. SCHOLZ BELIEVES THAT VIETNAMESE HAVE BEEN
COLLECTING INFORMATION ON MIA'S WHICH THEY CAN BE
EXPECTED TO PRESENT TO THE VICE PRESIDENT.

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2. SCHOLZ NOTED THAT HE HAS RAISED MIA QUESTION WITH

THE VIETNAMESE SEVERAL TIMES SINCE HIS ARRIVAL IN HANOI FOUR MONTHS AGO, MAKING POINT THAT THEY SHOULD NOT EXPECT U.S. TO TRADE AID FOR MIA INFORMATION WHICH, HE NOTED, IS EXACTLY WHAT VIETNAMESE ARE TRYING TO DO. SCHOLZ SAID HE BELIEVED SRV MADE VERY DEFINITE DECISION NOT RPT NOT TO RELEASE ALL THE INFORMATION AT ITS DISPOSAL PRIOR TO U.S. ELECTION DAY, NOT KNOWING WHETHER INCUMBENT ADMINISTRATION WOULD CONTINUE IN OFFICE. NOW, HE PREDICTED, SRV WILL DEFINITELY USE THIS IN EFFORT TO GET OFF ON RIGHT FOOT WITH THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION.

3. SCHOLZ ASKED JUST WHAT IT WILL TAKE FOR SRV TO SATISFY USG ON MIA ISSUE. EMBOFF REPLIED THAT ALL WE ASK IS THAT VIETNAMESE DEMONSTRATE THAT THEY HAVE MADE SINCERE EFFORT AT CONDUCTING SEARCH OF AREAS WE HAVE INDICATED TO THEM IN THE PAST AND THAT THEY MAKE FULL ACCOUNTING OF RESULTS. HE ASKED WHAT THE USG WILL DO IF IT RECEIVES SATISFACTION ON THIS SCORE, TO WHICH EMBOFF SAID THAT HE COULD NOT REALLY REPLY.

4. AMBASSADOR SCHOLZ IS ONE OF THOSE WHO, LIKE MANY OTHERS IN HANOI, BELIEVE THE VIETNAMESE WANT THE U.S. TO BE INVOLVED IN THEIR COUNTRY TO HELP IT BALANCE OFF THE SOVIETS (NOW NUMBERING 1,200 PERSONS INSIDE VIET-NAM, ACCORDING TO THE AMBASSADOR) AND CHINESE. HE QUOTED A YUGOSLAV DIPLOMAT RESIDENT IN HANOI AS CLAIMING THAT, IF ANY COUNTRY IS GOING TO BE ANOTHER YUGOSLAVIA, IT WILL BE VIET-NAM. SCHOLZ ALSO TAKES THE LINE THAT ALL OF US SHOULD TRY TO OPEN VIET-NAM UP TO THE WORLD AND THAT AID MAY JUST HELP CHANGE VIET-NAMS'S WAYS, IN THE LONG RUN (THE LATTER A DUBIOUS PROPOSITION, IN EMBASSY'S VIEW). HE OPINED THAT, IF VIET-NAM IS KEPT POOR, THE COUNTRY WILL SURELY TAKE OUT ITS FRUSTRATIONS ON ITS NEIGHBORS.

5. IN OTHER COMMENTS, SCHOLZ SAID THAT U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT HAS REMAINED IN VIET-NAM, TO THE BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE. HE NOTED THAT ONE SEES A NUMBER OF OUR PLANES UNDER PROTECTIVE COVERINGS PARKED IN DANANG AND PHU BAI (NEAR HUE).
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6. WITH RESPECT TO MID-DECEMBER LAO DONG PARTY CONGRESS, SCHOLZ SAID HE SUSPECTS NO ONE WILL MOVE UP TO FILL THE POSITION OF PARTY CHAIRMAN. WHAT HE BELIEVES WE WILL SEE IS EXPANSION OF POLITBURO FROM ELEVEN TO FIFTEEN PEOPLE, THE NEW MEMBERS CONSISTING OF MEN PERHAPS IN THEIR MID-FORTIES, AS PART OF A LAO DONG EFFORT TO INCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE NEXT GENERATION IN THE LEADERSHIP TO HELP THE

TRANSITION. UNFORTUNATELY, SCHOLZ COMMENTED THAT NO ONE KNOWS WHO THE IMPORTANT MEMBERS OF THIS AGE GROUP ARE.

7. AMBASSADOR SCHOLZ HAS NO LOVE FOR VIETNAMESE ADMINISTRATION, CLAIMING THAT THE ARMY IS THE ONLY OUTFIT THAT IS ANY GOOD. HE DESCRIBED THE NORTH'S INDUSTRY AS NEGLIGIBLE AND INEFFICIENT. HE NOTED THAT THE NEW INVESTMENT CODE SHOULD BE REVEALED WITHIN ONE TO TWO WEEKS, IN WHICH THERE WILL BE CONSIDERABLE EMPHASIS ON MIXED VIETNAMESE/FOREIGN INVESTMENT. CONCERNING PETROLEUM, HE SAID THE VIETNAMESE SEEM TO BE TALKING TO EVERYONE ABOUT POSSIBLE EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION, OIL REPRESENTING THE GREAT HOPE FOR THE FUTURE.

8. AN OLD CAMBODIAN HAND, SCHOLZ CLAIMED THAT HE DOES NOT SHAKE THE HAND IN HANOI OF THE MAN FREQUENTLY NEXT TO HIM IN LINE, CAMBODIAN AMBASSADOR SOK KHEANG, "BECAUSE HE HAS BLOOD ON HIS HANDS." SCHOLZ BELIEVES THAT IT IS PARTLY DUE TO HIS OWN RECOMMENDATION THAT BONN HAS NOT RECOGNIZED THE NEW CAMBODIAN REGIME. HE WAS INTERESTED IN DISCOVERING THAT THE VIETNAMESE JOURNALISTS WHO VISITED CAMBODIA IN JULY WERE LESS THAN HAPPY WITH THEIR STAY, COMPLAINING THAT THEY HAD BEEN TAKEN ON A "POTEMKIN TOUR" OF THE COUNTRY AND THAT THEIR EMBASSY IN PHNOM PENH HAD NOT RECEIVED THEM VERY WELL. VIETNAMESE JOURNALISTS ALSO WERE SOMEWHAT AMAZED THAT THE CAMBODIANS THEY INTERVIEWED REQUESTED THAT THEY SUBMIT THEIR QUESTIONS BEFOREHAND. UNFORTUNATELY, SCHOLZ ELICITED NO FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THEM ABOUT POL POT. ON A DIFFERENT OCCASION, DURING A CONVERSATION WITH THE YUGOSLAV CHARGE VISITING HANOI FROM PHNOM PENH, THE LATTER--AFTER NOTING THAT SIHANOUK

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WAS FINE AND HAPPILY LIVING IN PHNOM PENH--ADMITTED THAT NO DIPLOMATS HAVE SEEN HIM SINCE HIS RESIGNATION.

9. COMMENT. SCHOLZ GIVES IMPRESSION OF BEING RELATIVELY BALANCED PERSON IN HIS VIEWS, ALTHOUGH HE HAS PERHAPS ABSORBED A FEW OF THE BIASES FOUND AMONG THOSE LIVING IN HANOI.

WHITEHOUSE

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